

Reflexive Verbs

They all end in 'se'. Some include:

acostarse
afeitarse
casarse
cepillarse el pelo
cepillarse los dientes

to go to bed
to shave [oneself]
to get married
to brush one's hair
to brush one's teeth

cortarse	-	to cut oneself
despertarse	-	to wake up
detenerse	-	to come to a halt, to stop
ducharse	-	to take a shower
enamorarse	-	to fall in love
lavarse	-	to wash (oneself)
levantarse	-	to get up
llamarse	-	to be called, be named
mirarse	-	to look at oneself
pasearse	-	to go for a walk
peinarse	-	to comb one's hair
ponerse	-	to put on
quitarse	-	to take off
sentarse	-	to sit down
sentirse	-	to feel (ill, etc.)
vestirse	-	to get dressed

Example one

- A verb is reflexive when the subject and the object are the same.
- When a verb is reflexive, its base form or infinitive the four last letters are 'arse', 'erse' 'irse'

To wash[oneself]

I wash myself

I wash myself

I wash myself

I [yo]

myself [me]

wash [lavo]

lavar

yo lavarse

yo lavo me

yo me lavo

subject

object

verb

Example two

- A verb is not reflexive when the subject and the object are different.
- To wash lavar
- I wash yo lavar
- I wash yo lavo
- I wash the car yo lavo el carro
- I [yo] subject
- car [carro] object
- wash [lavo] verb

Reflexive Verbs

For all the reflexive verbs above, the 'arse' or 'erse' or 'irse' are dropped from the verb before certain endings are added and the reflexive pronouns go in front of the conjugated verbs.

Example three

At six o'clock I wash my face

A son las seis yo lavarse la cara.

A ~~son~~ las seis yo lavarse la cara

A las seis yo ~~lavarse~~ la cara

A las seis yo lav_____ la cara.

A las seis yo lavo me la cara

A las seis yo me lavo la cara

A las seis me lavo la cara

Reflexive Pronouns

myself	me
yourself [familiar]	te
yourself [polite]	se
yourself	se
himself	se
ourselves	nos
yourselves	se
themselves	se

Now let us conjugate the verb 'quitarse'

quitarse

quitæ

yo	quit-o → me quito
tú	quit-as → te quitas
usted	quit-a → se quita
él	quit-a → se quita
ella	quit-a → se quita
nosotros	quit-amos → nos quitamos
ustedes	quit-an → se quitan
ellos	quit-an → se quitan
ellas	quit-an → se quitan

- remember you conjugate the verb above like a normal AR verb and then you add the reflexive pronouns in front of the conjugated verb
- The purpose of the reflexive object pronouns is to show that the action of the verb remains with the subject.
- **Juan se lava la cara.**
- Juan washes his face. (reflexive)
- **Juan lava su carro.** (non-reflexive)
- Juan washes his car.
- **Note:** When referring to body parts, [Viva 2 pg. 94] use the definite article, thus "la cara" not "su cara."

Reflexive Verbs

Let us conjugate another AR reflexive verb:

mirARse

mirarse to look at oneself

yo	me miro
tú	te miras
él	se mira
ella	se mira
usted	se mira
nosotros	nos miramos
ustedes	se miran
ellos	se miran
ellas	se miran

Now let us try an ER reflexive verb:

ponERse

ponerse to put on[clothes on one's body]

yo	me <i>pongo</i> *
tú	te pones
él	se pone
ella	se pone
usted	se pone
nosotros	nos ponemos
ustedes	se ponen
ellos	se ponen
ellas	se ponen

Now let us try to translate a sentence.

1 At 10 o'clock I go to bed.

Step one

A son las diez yo acostarse

Step two

A ~~son~~ las diez yo acostarse

Step three

A las diez yo acostarse

Step four

A las diez yo acostar

Step five

A ~~son~~ las diez yo acost

Step six

A las diez yo acosto

Step seven

A las diez yo acosto **me**

Step eight

A las diez yo **me** acosto

Reflexive Verbs

Now acostarse is a stem changing verb. This means the stem changes before you conjugate the verb- acostarse- **acuestarse**. So the **o** in the stem become **ue**

Step nine

A las diez yo **me acuesto**

Step ten

A las diez ~~yo~~ **me acuesto**

Finally the answer

A las diez **me acuesto**

Now let us try to translate the rest of acostarse:

acostARse

acostarse to put on[clothes on one's body]

acuestarse

yo **me acuesto**

tú **te acuestas**

él **se acuesta**

ella **se acuesta**

usted **se acuesta**

nosotros **nos acostamos** [the stem DOES NOT CHANGE for nosotros]

ustedes **se acuestan**

ellos **se acuestan**

ellas **se acuestan**

Now let us try to translate some sentences.

- 1 I get up at six o'clock
- 2 John wakes up at eight. despertarse→despietarse
- 3 Mary shaves her **legs**→piernas[f]
- 4 After some minutes she goes to bed.
- 5 then she washes her face, showers and gets dressed. vestIRse→ vistIRse
- 6 He shaves carefully
- 7 she goes to the bathroom in order to wash his hair
- 8 In the evening she goes for a walk with her boy friend
- 9 She is going to marry her boyfriend.
- 10 She often sits in a bench at the park
- 11 she feels ill
- 12 we calm ourselves before the Spanish exam.

Now let us try to translate a paragraph.

I wake up at five thirty am. After a few minutes, I get up out of the bed. Then I wake up my daughter. She goes to the bathroom, washes her face and brushes her teeth. At six o' clock I bathe her and she puts on her uniform. At 6:20 she has breakfast and leaves for school.

Then I go to the bathroom shave my legs, take a shower and dress. At 6:45 I look at myself in the mirror and put on my makeup. I leave the house at 7:15 in order to arrive at the community college where I study Spanish. I am a second year student.

In the evening I go to the library with my boyfriend. In the night we go for a walk in the park and we chat and drink orange juice. After some hours, he drives me home and I go to bed at midnight.